



BERNAL JOURNAL

FEBRUARY—MARCH 1988 151 Volume 25, No. 1

Welcome to Bernal Heights, Mr. Mayor!



Bernal Journal youth staff members Peter Richardson and Monifa Quarels present a special memento to new Mayor Art Agnos at the Bernal fundraising dinner in January. Of course, Mayor Agnos needs no introduction to Bernal—he worked closely with the Bernal Heights Community Foundation to plan the Coleridge Park Homes, affordable senior housing being developed over the Standard Brands store at Mission and Virginia. See inside for more photos from the dinner.

Photo by Pattie Bartlett

Downzoning: How does it impact you?

by Amy Love

Dean Macris, Director of Planning for the City and County of San Francisco, will answer questions on the new zoning law on Tuesday, February 9 at 7 p.m. at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Avenue.

Macris will address ambiguities in the law and outline how it will be administered. He will also explain the process for modifying this interim legislation.

The law, passed by the Board of Supervisors on December 7, 1987, covers virtually all of Bernal Heights, affecting both new housing and home improvements. Gross livable space is limited to 2000 square feet for a normal lot, building height to 30 feet and maximum lot coverage to 55%. In addition, one off-street parking space is now required for each 1000 square feet of construction. The first parking space must be at least 8 feet by 20 feet, though additional spaces need only be 127.5 square feet.

By downzoning all RH-II units to RH-I, the law prohibits the development of any new rental housing in Bernal Heights.

The meeting is the result of the concerns expressed at the last meeting of the BHCF Housing and Planning Committee. Forty-two Bernal residents attended, voicing objections to the limits on home improvements and to the lack of advance public notice.

The meeting is open to all. Childcare will be provided.

Second Annual Community Congress Come one, come all!

by Tim Molinare

The Bernal Heights Community Foundation (BHCF) will hold the second annual Bernal Community Congress on Saturday, April 23, 1988. The Congress is an opportunity for Bernal neighbors to come together to discuss problems and issues which concern us all. Last year there was an excellent turnout—over eighty members—for the first-ever Congress. The purpose of the Congress is to reaffirm the BHCF Mission Statement (see below), to elect new members of the board of directors, to consider and pass resolutions and to involve the Bernal Heights community in the organization. This year, each member will receive an informational packet about the upcoming Congress in advance.

PROGRESS IN '87

During the past year, we have further developed the membership system, which has helped us identify our constituency and raise some much-needed funds. At last year's Congress, the group decided to make the *New Bernal Journal* a project of the BHCF Youth

Program. As you know, the effort has really paid off. We now have a regularly scheduled publication which seems to be serving the needs of Bernal Heights. Thanks to our hard-working editor, volunteer staff, and the distribution workers, we have a paper we can all be proud of.

Last year there was also a lot of debate about housing and traffic concerns. The BHCF Neighborhood Center Committee discussed traffic problems, and held a community meeting about stop signs on Cortland—but we were met with strong resistance from the City. We will follow that up this year if the community still considers it a high priority.

(continued on page 5)

**The MISSION of the BHCF is
"to preserve the existing ethnic,
cultural, and architectural
character of Bernal Heights and
to promote the economic well-
being of the low and moderate
income, minority, and
unemployed residents of Bernal
Heights."**

Inside...

Noticia importante.....	Page 5
Healthy laughter.....	Page 9
The latest dirt.....	Page 4
Burton High is tops!.....	Page 7

NEW BERNAL JOURNAL

515 Cortland Avenue,
(phone 648-0330)

The *New Bernal Journal* is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues, and events. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Community Foundation.

The next meeting of the *New Bernal Journal* Advisory Board is February 8.

Deadline for articles and ads for the April-May issue is:

MARCH 1

All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, or arrangements can be made to enter them directly into the computer. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or space.

Circulation for this issue: 8,000

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Karen Rivas, Jessie Alvarez, Tom Fell, Monifa Quarels, Cathy Bremer, Paulette Lincoln, Jerry Powell, Peggy Turnipseed, Nicole Myers, Lisa Steadman, Bill Sorro, Donald Pipkins, Warren Hinckle

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Mail Box

Dear Editor,

The downzoning of Bernal Heights—why am I opposed? I hope you have not been put off by this opening sentence. I encourage you to read on if you were planning to add a bedroom or family room to your house. You probably cannot do it now because of the controls that were passed by the Board of Supervisors and sponsored by Supervisor Maher. Did you know that you have a height limit of 30 feet? That you are limited to 2000 square feet of livable space? That you have to add a new parking space in the garage for any addition of 1000 feet? You probably didn't know that for the next 18 months you are under these restrictions.

If you are a renter you probably think, "So what. This doesn't affect me." Did you know that under these controls no new rental units can be built in Bernal Heights for the next 18 months? Do you think this may affect you now? Did you hope to find a better or bigger place and stay in Bernal Heights? Good luck under these controls.

So why am I opposed to these controls? I ask you, what makes Bernal Heights an attractive place to live? Is it because it has views of the Bay, or the City, or Twin Peaks? Yes, it has beautiful views. But what else makes it special? Isn't it the character of the neighborhood? Isn't it the mix of people from many different cultures? Isn't it the mix of people who have many different incomes? Isn't it the mix of seniors and new neighbors? I think these are the real ingredients that make Bernal Heights a special place to live. And I am afraid that these kind of controls threaten to destroy this character.

With no new rental units, how can the neighborhood remain affordable? With no new good size homes, how can families with kids plan to stay here? If families are unable to add that extra room, how can they take care of an elderly grandmom? How can the life styles from the many cultures that live here be accommodated?

Of course, we have all come to realize that in this City we need some kind of control on building and development. I agree, but I am saying that a blanket restriction for 18 months is too much control. I am saying that when controls that affect the entire neighborhood are proposed, the debate needs to include all those in the neighborhood, and not be limited to those few who have been active.

I don't think the families of Bernal Heights have been served by these controls and I think we should begin serious discussion to see what people in Bernal Heights want for their future.

Dan Rosen
Anderson Street

Dear Editor,

I am responding to the issue of downzoning in Bernal Heights, as covered in the December issue of the *New Bernal Journal*. This proposal has its good points but I am concerned with what this will do to the availability of affordable housing in Bernal Heights and in the rest of San Francisco. By arbitrarily lowering heights to 30 feet, decreasing allowable floor area, and removing the possibility of second units, this legislation may cause housing prices in Bernal to rise even faster than they are doing now.

Several people who were not involved in Supervisor Maher's process came to the BHCF to ask what it was all about. I serve as Chair of the BHCF Planning and Development Committee. A community meeting was held in January, where over forty people discussed concerns. The end result of the meeting was very positive. There were people who are for the downzoning, so both sides were well represented. I was pleasantly surprised to see such good cooperation and understanding among the people present. A smaller group met to determine a course of action to take during the next few months: to work out a compromise, and propose new legislation which takes into account neighborhood planning and affordable housing issues.

Sincerely,

Tim Molinare
Santa Marina Street

Editor's Update

Holiday treat from PG&E: The Bernal Journal Youth Project was treated to ACT's "A Christmas Carol", complete with a visit from Scrooge at the post-performance party! Patty Salazar, Monifa Quarels, and Peter Richardson all decided he's not such a bad old guy after all...Kudos to two Bernal neighbors, for rather different reasons: to Michael Nolan, for his promotion to Director of Marketing and Communications at the *San Francisco Progress* (wow!); and to Ellen Shaffer, for demonstrating for more AIDS research funding—and getting arrested for her convictions (excuse the pun)...Speaking of the *Progress*, we're looking forward to the second annual "State of the Neighborhoods" Conference—hopefully coming this summer—we'll keep you posted...And former *Bernal Journal* volunteer Angus MacKenzie, now with the Center for Investigative Reporting, broke the news on the *Examiner's* Page One that the operators of the train that hit anti-war protester Brian Willson were under orders of the U.S. Navy not to stop. Back to more pleasant news—We are pleased to be working very closely with the terrific faculty and student body at Phillip and Sala Burton High School. Not only do we have the multi-talented Monifa Quarels as Youth Page Editor, but Burton seniors will be volunteering their time for the Bernal Journal Youth Project this semester (see Monifa's article on this exceptional school in this issue)...Karen Rivas, that bundle-of-energy who owns Bernal's hot spot, Four Star Video, has been elected President of the **Cortland Merchants Association**. Where does she find the time? She's already so very involved on the Bernal Journal Advisory Board; Toni Grabbe of Marvin Gardens is Vice President...Mark Hall of the Mission branch library hosted a terrific "Community Journalism forum" in January. The *New Bernal Journal* shared the dais with *El Tecolote*, *North Mission News*, and *Mission Edition*. Thanks to Mark for a great program!

Junior League to the rescue!!!

Warmest thanks to the **Junior League Enabling Fund** for their \$1600 grant to the Bernal Journal Youth Project. We appreciate their faith in the project and in the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. Their generosity and community consciousness has enabled us to hire our wonderful Youth Page Editor, Monifa Quarels.

Dear Editor,

Whale Of A Success! Paul Revere School thanks your readers, parents and friends who helped our "Whale of a Sale." Through your efforts we raised \$1,000.00 to help pay for field trips for all students to an ocean habitat. The entire school will participate in Oceans Week March 21 - 25. Please plan a visit to Paul Revere to see the exciting things your children are learning then, and any time of the year!

Sincerely,

Judy Drummond, teacher
Paul Revere School

Please be aware that—because Easter and Passover fall on the first weekend of April—the April-May issue of the *New Bernal Journal* will be distributed the weekend of April 9.

Deadline for April-May issue is March 1!

We at the Bernal Journal Youth Project were saddened to hear of the death of Owen Davis, PG&E Regional Director. He was very community-minded—and all of us in the community will miss him and his good works.

Master of his craft

by Amy Love

In a little workshop in Bernal Heights a master craftsman works, using century-old patterns and homemade tools to shape fine wood into violins in the manner of Stradivarius and Guarnerius.

When Ray Gigliotti, 79, retired from American Can Company, he wanted to work in wood. Forty-five years as a machinist and tool and die maker prepared him well; the material was new, but the trained hands quickly formed clocks, cabinets and other exquisite furniture. The pride in craft taught him by his shoemaker father can be seen in the smooth burnished wood.

In search of new challenges, Ray turned to violins. "The first book I read said that if you couldn't make your own tools, you should just forget it," he says. Ray set to work on this, filling the basement of the house he shares with his sister, Josephine Gigliotti, with all the needed equipment, from tiny finger planes that shape the interior curve to an airtight closet that dries the completed instrument.

The first violin took fourteen months to complete, a frustratingly long time for Ray. "But I brought it to a master violin maker who told me it had taken him nine years to learn what I had done in fourteen months," Ray laughs. Now it takes him only four months from start to finish.



Ray Gigliotti with one of his precious creations.

Violin making seems natural for a man whose family is steeped in the old Italian tradition of music. Ray's father played mandolin, the same instrument used these days by his brother Michael. Ray himself was a boy soprano back in North Adams, Massachusetts. Moving to Bernal Heights as a teenager, he switched to violin, playing with the Municipal Chorus for a while.

Ray's expertise ranges beyond music and craft. He was once a semi-pro outfielder, playing for the Bernal Boosters in the Class B leagues with opponents like the young Joe DiMaggio. He later coached a team from a dismal 28-0 loss in their first Class D game to a Class A playoffs in only four years.

Ray is still clearly influenced by the example set by his father many years ago. "My father was illiterate when he came to the U.S., and spoke only Italian. He learned to read and write Italian, English, French and Yiddish."

"He apprenticed as a shoemaker when he was seven. He was a real shoemaker. Most of these places now, they just repair shoes, put on new soles and heels. My father made shoes, shoes for crippled people. I have a cast he made for a clubfoot. He would make a pattern and shape a shoe for them. They're not like my father any more."

And they're not like Ray Gigliotti any more.

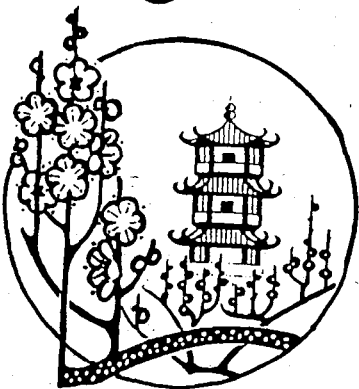
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The holidays are over. The days are getting longer, if not warmer. Now is the time to coax Spring back to Bernal by getting involved with open space improvement and expansion projects!

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

The community garden near Prospect between Cortland and Santa Marina is progressing beautifully. What was once a weed-choked eyesore is now an attractively terraced block-long garden. With help from the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) and Bernal Heights Open Space Committee (BHOSC), area residents are working together to create something to be proud of: a place to grow food and delight the eye.

The project is by no means finished. Planting, landscaping and other activities are still needed to complete the garden. People interested in helping should contact SLUG at 468-0110 (ask for Keith). Most Saturday mornings are work days, weather permitting. This is a great way to meet neighbors and get a glimpse of what community organizing can do.

MAYFLOWER PEACE GARDEN: THE NEXT STEP

On Saturday, February 13, the BHOSC is sponsoring a meeting at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland, to discuss the ambitious Mayflower Peace Garden. This five-block stretch of open space on Bernal's East Slope has wonderful potential. Input is needed from all interested Bernal residents to make this project a success. The meeting will start at 9 am. Wear walking shoes, as we will make a tour of the Mayflower site after a brief introduction and orientation. For further information contact Tess Beistel at 824-8869.

POWHATTAN PATH: A FIRM PLAN

For those who have slipped on the muddy trail between Ellsworth and Gates on Powhattan: take cheer! A plan for a gravel path and light landscaping has been worked out with the help of neighbors, SLUG, and the SF Conservation Corps. As soon as a final plan is approved, workday schedules will be set and volunteers will be needed to help out. Check the BHOSC update next issue for more details.

STREET TREES ON THE MOVE!

Yet another planting for the Hill that knows how! Residents of the East Slope area near Brewster, Peralta, York, Montcalm and Macedonia Streets held a street tree planting January 30. The plantings, sponsored by San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest (SFFUF), are great fun and include a pot luck party afterwards. If you are interested in participating in a future planting, contact Peter Grijanski from SFFUF at 543-5000.

LEAVES OF GRASS

Sure the rain's a pain, but look how lovely Bernal's hilltop park is these days. It is through the efforts of concerned neighbors and groups like BHOSC that we are able to enjoy this lush green vision. Anyone interested in participating in the continuing efforts to make Bernal beautiful can come to the next BHOSC meeting to learn what's going on and contribute ideas for the future. Call Lisa Steadman (550-0529), Linda Aurichio (282-9856) or Maurice Kelly (826-6607) to get *involved*.



MARGARET RANDOLPH GETS TAKEN FOR A RIDE by Richard Van Kooy, Linda Aurichio, and Charles Bolton after attending a tree-planting ceremony held in her honor. Friends and admirers from her Northwest Bernal neighborhood and the Bernal Heights Open Space Committee planted a living tribute to Margaret's many years of dedication to the community, including her hard work on the Northwest Bernal Neighborhood Building Review Board. Margaret is also a co-founder of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, and has been active in the Northwest Bernal Block Club for years. A TRUE INSPIRATION FOR US ALL!

Special thanks to our tremendous Distribution Network for December!

REGION CAPTAINS: Kay Daly, Sister Janet Simons, Peggy Turnipseed, Georgia Willette, Herb Felsenfeld, Tim Molinare, Maxine Nietz, Linda Aurichio, Charles Bolton. **DISTRIBUTORS:** David Gavrich, Tina Gervin, Rick Palos, Liz Walker, Karen Rivas, Terrell Johnson, Sheré Sanders, Zona Johnson, Judith Eastwood, Fay Farrar, Aido Gallegos, Laurie Vargas, Anna Escobar, Alma Ramirez, Carmen Cisneros, Marilina Wilson, Dan Rosen, Pat Lynch, Beth Durant, Pat Kolbas, Carlos Alcalá, Monifa Quarels, Jessie Alvarez, Lee Egger, Frank Hutchins, Dolores Brady & Family, Steve Antonaros, Polly Marshall, Pattie Bartlett, Joe McHugh, Anita Kline, Bonnie Monte, Susan Cervantes, Barbara Bagot, Alan McKay, Holmes-McGovern Family, Olivia Dildy, Sue Hestor, Sylvia Yee, Brian McCaffery, Phoebe McAtee, Richard VanKooy, Cathy Bremer, June Brevdy, Sam and Jan Botza, Theo Johnson, Terrell Johnson, Beverly Bagdorf, Russell Townsend, Irene Thompson, Cayce Baxley, Frank Harris, Jim Ilnicki. **Apologies if we left off your name—we'll thank you next time!**

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One of the BHCF's proudest accomplishments is the Coleridge Park Homes Development, which includes forty-nine units of affordable senior housing, plus a mini-park, parking, and the Standard Brands paint store (See New Bernal Journal, August 1987). We expect to market 49 affordable units to seniors this year. Anyone interested in applying for senior housing should contact the Foundation for information.

In terms of outreach, we are pleased with our very successful Pancake Breakfasts the third Sunday of each month. It's a great way to meet your neighbors, and you get pancakes, sausage, eggs, and coffee—all for just \$3.00! It's also a good fundraiser for the organization. A lot of credit must go to our Outreach Committee for establishing our membership drive and producing a very useful brochure explaining what the BHCF is all about. We have about 250 members now, but we need many more!

PLANNING FOR '88

During February and March, we will hold planning meetings to determine any proposed by-law changes, resolutions, and board nominees. Anyone who is not now a member of the BHCF should fill out an application, available at the Center at 515 Cortland. The dues are very reasonable: \$5 for seniors and students, \$10 for other individuals. It is important that we get your name on our mailing list so that we can make this year's Congress as successful as last year's. We need to broaden the representation on the board of directors to reflect the ethnic diversity of Bernal Heights, so we encourage all interested Bernal residents to apply.

Planning for the Congress is an open process and everyone is invited to participate. It is important to become a member of the Foundation so that you can vote and so that you will be kept up to date on all Bernal happenings that we are involved with. Call Fred Allingham, BHCF Executive Director, at 648-0330 for more information.

SEE YOU AT THE COMMUNITY CONGRESS!

Pagpupulong sa pagsosoning

Direktor Dean Macris, ng Lungsod ng San Francisco ay dadalo sa pagpupulong na ito upang sagutin ang mga katanungan ninyo ukol sa pagsosoning, at ito ay gaganapin sa Febrero 9 alas 7:00 ng gabi sa Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center sa 515 Cortland Avenue.

Direktor Macris ang magpapaliwanag kung ano ang magiging patakaran ng batas na ito at kung paano maaring mabago ang batas na ipinasa ng ating "Board of Supervisors" noong Disyembre 7, 1987.

Ang nasabing batas ay ukol sa pamamahay at pagbabago ng mga tahanan dito sa Bernal Heights. Ito ay nagtatakdang limitahan ang ating mga tahanan sa "2000 square feet" para sa normal na lupa, at ang taas ng bahay ay hindi lalampas sa 30 feet at ang lupa ay hindi sosobra sa 55%.

Bukod sa rito, isa lamang parkingan ang kinakailangan tuwing magtatayo ng 1000 parisukat. Ang unang parkingan ay kinakailangan lang na magkaroon ng 8 at 20 parisukat, kahit na ang dagdag na lugar ay 127.5 parisukat.

Sa pagbababa ng soning ng lahat RH-2 sa RH-1, pinababawal ng batas ang pagtatayo ng bagong paupahan sa Bernal Heights.

Ang pagpupulong na ito ay tinatawag upang bigyan ng pagkakataon ang lahat na makapagsalita ng kanilang upinyon sa paglilimita sa mga pagbabago sa ating mga tahanan. 42 nananahanan sa Bernal Heights lamang ang nagsidal sa nakaraang pagpupulong.

Ang pagpupulong na ito ay bukas para sa lahat.

To your health!

Free medical exams and info at the public health fair at the Mission Neighborhood Center, 240 Shotwell Street, on Saturday February 27 from 9 am to 3 pm. Sponsored by the Center and Chicanos in Health Education at UCSF. Info call 552-3870 ext 279.

Noticia Importante

5

Dean Macris, Director de Planeamiento para la Ciudad y Condado de San Francisco, responderá a preguntas sobre la nueva ley de zonamiento en una junta el 9 de febrero a las 7 p.m. en el Centro del Vecindario de Bernal Heights en el 515 de la avenida Cortland.

El Sr. Macris responderá a las ambigüedades en la ley y explicará cómo será llevada a cabo esta misma. También, explicará cómo se puede modificar esta ley que hasta ahora es temporeana.

La ley, pasada por la Camara de Supervisores el 7 de Diciembre de 1987, cubre a la mayoría de Bernal Heights y afecta a la construcción de casas nuevas y la renovación de casas en el area. La ley dicta que en un lote normal sólo se pueden construir 2000 pies cuadrados de espacio, y la estructura no puede ser ni mas de 30 pies de altura ni puede cubrir mas del 55% del lote.

Ademas, ahora se requiere un lugar de estacionamiento por cada 1000 pies cuadrados de construcción. Este espacio tiene que medir 8 pies de ancho por 20 pies de largo, pero cada estacionamiento adicional puede ser mas chico.

Esta nueva ley reclasifica a todas las unidades de vivir y proibe la creación de nuevas unidades para rentar en Bernal Heights.

La junta el 9 de febrero es el resultado de las preocupaciones expresadas en la última reunion del Comite de Vivienda y Planeación de BHCF. Cuarenta y dos residentes de Bernal Heights estuvieron presentes y dieron a saber sus objeciones a las restricciones que esta ley pone y a la falta de aviso en avanzado que se dió al publico antes de pasar esta ley.

La junta ésta abierta a todos los interesados. Habrá un intérprete.

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What do YOU think?



Please take the time to answer this questionnaire about the New Bernal Journal and send it in to us. We need to know how well we're serving the neighborhood, and how we can improve. Thank you!

1. How do you like the New Bernal Journal? (check one) ☐ Very Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

2. Have you been getting your New Bernal Journal every two months? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. What types of articles or themes would you like to see? _____

4. Are you interested in helping produce the paper and/or work with youth? (please list interest or skills in writing, editing, photography, data entry...) _____

5. Will you distribute the paper on your block? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Comments and other suggestions... _____

Your name _____ address _____ phone _____

Please help us document our contribution to the community by signing and returning this questionnaire to the New Bernal Journal, 515 Cortland, SF 94110.

Precita Memories

By R. J. Dutra

It's been over four years since Ray Juarez was shot to death on 26th Street—an innocent victim who died in the arms of friends who themselves barely escaped the wild shots fired by a drug-crazed murderer. Local youths honored the popular young man with a football game in Precita Park. Mike Martinez gathered the players to kneel in silent prayer while the director of Precita Center tried to say some appropriate words.

I was director then; October of '83 was my last month. The year had begun with the shooting deaths of Pete Jiunti and Julio Peterson. Two other innocent victims. After their funeral over a hundred mourners gathered in the Center. Irene Ortiz, with the help of Head Start staff and their facilities, served refreshments to the crowd.

Sad memories to recall, hard lessons to learn, but only part of what I would take with me from Precita Center, established 1922:

There were delightful lunches in little chairs at short tables with the Head Start class. The bright and eager faces of the Summer Jobs youths. Gathering early on foggy summer mornings to board a bus for field trips to sunshine and swimming. Elections and community meetings brought old-timers and their tales of the good ole' days at the Center. And Wednesday Night Basketball which set some court records while drawing scores of youths to participate.

The crowded and popular Mind Motion Dances were not so popular with the police: At the first, a squad car had its tires punctured, requiring three other cars and eight police to change it. At the last, Mission went off on Precita and Hampshire. Some blood was shed and injuries sustained. The SFPD imposed a 9:00 p.m. curfew on the Center.

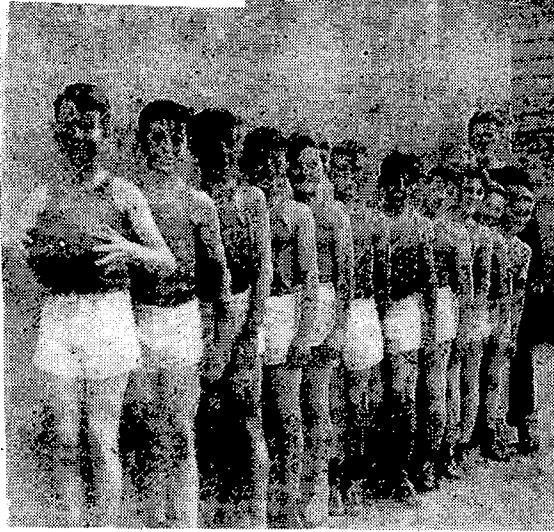
There was the excitement of the Playoffs followed by the wild joy as the Forty Niners became Number One with the first Super Bowl victory. The Center opened to celebrate. Too often the youths opened it themselves for private celebrations—like Martin Escobar's 18th birthday—bringing director and police to chase them out and secure the building. Bars and alarms were the result.

Carol Deutsch, the previous director, left me with three rules: Treat the youths as if they were your own children, never lose them on a field trip, and never turn them over to the police. Excellent staff helped me follow those rules, such as Head Start teachers Carol and Elvira, Summer Jobs Supervisor Josie Shinn, coaches Richard Chavez and Cedro Indencio, arts and crafts teacher Eli Jordon, MECA director Roberto Hernandez, Precita Eyes muralist Susan Cervantes, Board members Jane Wrench And Vincent Chao, center aides Patty Johnson and Robert Schick.

It's been a while, but I haven't forgotten them, Petey, Julio, Ray, or the many others I had the honor and pleasure to know at Precita Center.

Are these the Golden State Warriors? Nope—they're the 1941 "Mission Champs" posing in front of Precita Center.

Precita Nursery School August 1936—see anyone you know?



Precita through the years...



then



Dance to the music! Precita Center dance in June 1922.



Photo by Sister Janet Simons

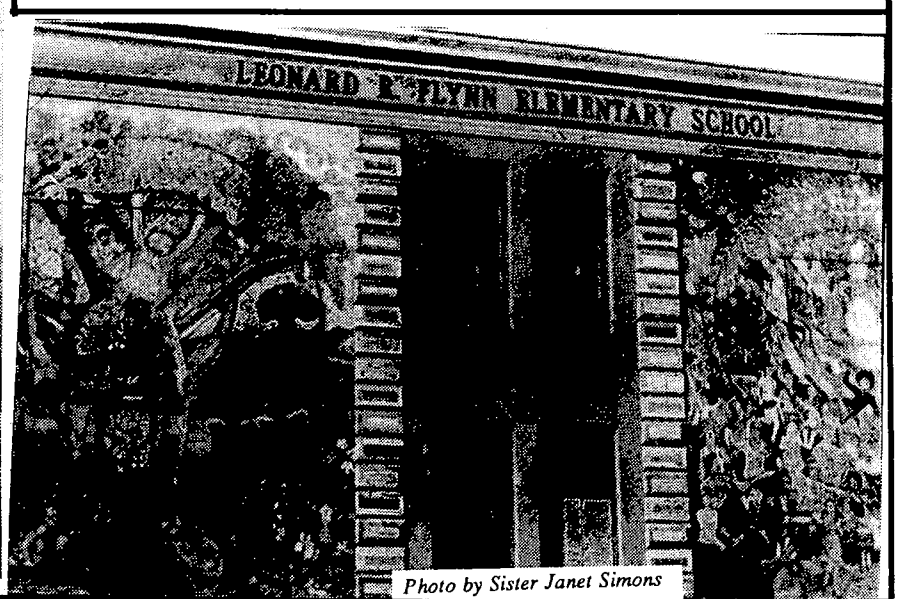


Photo by Sister Janet Simons

and now

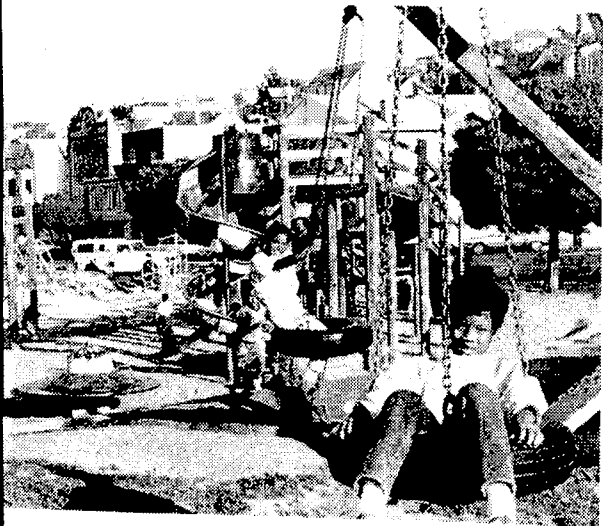


Photo by Sister Janet Simons

Precita Center Events

The Precita Valley Community Center is located at 534 Precita Ave. between Alabama and Florida Streets. It is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Built by the community and opened in 1922, it has served the Precita Valley for 66 years.

Currently the Center offers two sessions of the pre-school Headstart Program. In the afternoons it is open for recreation and weight lifting. The Outer Mission's Summer Youth Employment Program is headquartered at the Center.

Over the decades Precita has sponsored outstanding baseball, football, basketball, kickball, volleyball and weight lifting teams. Most recently, the Center's basketball teams were A.A.U.U. League trophy winners.

Precita resident and Center graduate Jeff Palega, 20, is the Center Aide. Jeff is in charge of recreation activities, and produces two successful dances every year.

Precita Center is administered by Mission Neighborhood Centers. For more information call Center Director Roger Hernandez (285-7833) or Executive Director Sam Ruiz (829-2433).

Touch of Class!



Touch of Class, the talented and popular choir from Phillip and Sala Burton Academic High School, raised spirits at the BHCF fundraising dinner January 23. They also performed at Mayor Agnos' inauguration. They will perform **in concert on February 26 and 27**, at Burton High auditorium, to raise money for their trip to Ireland. Check it out! They are a treat!



by Don Gibble

The Glass Menagerie

Paul Newman's direction of Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" is awesome. Newman keeps the camera moving fluidly without being excessive, and the acting is excellent. Though it creaks a bit here and there and might seem a little delicate for a film audience geared to car chases and gunfights, the play is still as moving as ever.

The danger in filmed plays is that they become showcases for "great acting," like last year's "Crimes of the Heart." Although Newman directed the play on stage and saw the film as a way to immortalize the performances of his cast, he and his company avoid this as much as they can. But the emphasis is inevitably on the performances.

Joanne Woodward plays the suffocating chatterbox, bird-brained mother, obsessed with memories of her past, particularly the day when 17 "gentleman callers" all came to court her. When she starts telling the story for the umpteenth-million time, John Malkovich (Tom, her son) heaves a frustrated sigh, and Karen Allen (her daughter) begs him to be tolerant: "She likes to tell it."

So they listen to her spin her nostalgic, suffocating memories. James Naughton rounds out the cast as the "gentleman caller." Oscar nominations should go to Woodward and Malkovich.

Grade A-

it's goin' on... Youth Focus

A High School Where Everybody Is Somebody

By Monifa Quarels

Phillip and Sala Burton Academic High School is in San Francisco in the Silver Terrace area at 45 Conkling Street. Burton High is a strict college preparatory school with emphasis on computers. It came together due to the Consent decree in Fall of 1984, the year I entered as a 9th grader.

The Consent Decree—entered into by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the California State Department of Education, and the San Francisco Unified School District and subsequently ordered by United States District Judge William H. Orrick—has as its basic goal the improvement of integration throughout all of the public schools in San Francisco. Consent Decree wanted a mixed school in the Bayview/Hunters point area and it was approved on May 19, 1983 by Judge Orrick.

I am now a senior at Phillip Burton and feel I am more educated than some of my friends at other high schools. I know this because Burton is a school "Where Everybody is Somebody".

There are many rumors going around about Burton being too hard or it being called "Cell Block B". It is! To a sense! The work is hard and you do work a lot but, it pays off in the future (college, I mean). Burton is a closed campus school (Students are not allowed off the school grounds during school hours—not even for lunch.) We have no sports in which you compete with other schools but we do have intramural sports. All of these things make you more disciplined and more aware or your work and not what you'll have for lunch at McDonald's.

Mrs. Fredna Howell, principal, has done a great job in conducting our school and in helping make Burton the best school it can be.

It's great because:

- 1) It has a three year accreditation (1987-1990) as a college prep school.
- 2) It was named one of twenty-seven outstanding high schools in the United States.
- 3) The school's choir went to Nice, France in 1986 and will go to Ireland in 1988.
- 4) CAP (a test given to California seniors in Math, Reading and English) scores are second highest in San Francisco Unified School District.
- 5) Everyboby wants to go to Burton!

Great School, huh?

Overall I feel that Phillip and Sala Burton Academic High School is a great school and it's not as tough as people say it is. As a senior, I am proud to graduate this year from Burton because I know I'll be able to conquer the work in college and after college. Thanks Burton! And to those parents and students looking for a high school, I highly recommend Burton High.

To Start Anew

—Monica Portillo, high school student—

I might as well be considered crazy or insane
with such a thought
I thought my feelings were the last but instead
yours came along
So much I want to hold you
and never look back again
But it happened, it all came to an end
Yes, it's possible to start anew
but now you only feel the dead end wall
That I once knew.
You can see through it
But your feelings are the glass transparency
that you don't seem to admit.
I cried just a while ago
reminiscing the times of just before
I wish I could start anew
but you now see the glass wall
That I once knew.

THAT SONG by Monifa Quarels

When I hear that song,
I always think of him.
The first time I heard it;
we danced—
the second time,
we kissed.

At the party, I remember,
that song plays twice,
On his car radio, lots of times.
Alone in my room, I heard that song
and thought of him.

That song knows how I feel.
For a week—all week long now,
that song has played,
as I wait for him to call.
Oh, I'm crying so hard...
Because I know he never hears that song
or thinks of me...
at all.

It's goin' on at SKY...

Every Monday Night: All Bernal Heights high school students are invited to drop in from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Hall on Ellsworth between Cortland and Jarboe. Bring your homework if you need help, or just come by to talk and play games.

February 8 and March 7: Drop in will be more formal, with a one-hour discussion group starting at 7:30 pm. Topics to be announced.

Coming up: April 23, ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK AT THE HOP! Dance to classics from the fifties and sixties from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., eat sliders and sodas at the SKY diner from 7 to 10 p.m. DJed by KYA. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for age 18 and under, available from any SKY member.

April 29 - May 1: Retreat.

Bernal Gym

Activity	Age
Youth Basketball League	9-11
Youth Tournament	7-12
Storytelling Hour	6-12
Indoor Soccer League	6-10
Youth Cooking Class	10-16
Over the Hill Basketball	30+
...plus Hunch Basketball and Weight training and more! For more information, call the director at 285-6252.	

8 Library Happenings



OVER 200 PEOPLE enjoyed the performance of "The Bear and the Berry Picker" by World of Tales at the Bernal Library's Holiday Open House in December.

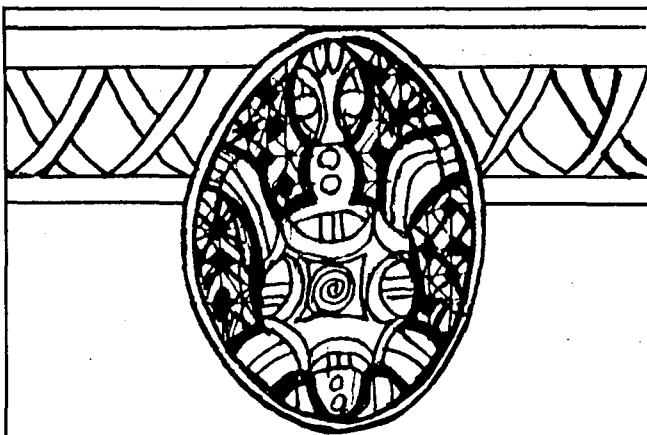
The Chinese Lion Dancers come to Bernal to celebrate the Year of the Dragon on Saturday, February 6 at 4 pm. The Lion Dance began over 1500 years ago and is an important part of any Chinese celebration. The lion is one of the most significant symbols of Chinese pageantry, bringing peace, happiness and joy in its wake. This is a memorable event you won't want to miss.

AART presents a reading of the play "Young Brummel" by William R. Gremmel on Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 pm and Saturday March 5 at 3:30 pm.

Children's programs for March include a women's storytelling festival for International Women's Day and celebrations of Dr. Seuss' birthday and St. Patrick's Day. For details and times, contact the children's librarian at 285-1744 or come in for a flyer of March children's programs.



Joe Wright "victimized" by magician Chris Abbe at the Bernal Library in October.



Black History Festival at the Bernal Library

Celebrate Black History Month at the Bernal Branch, 500 Cortland Avenue, during the entire month of February. The program is part of a citywide celebration to be held at the Bernal Branch, the Western Addition Branch, 1550 Scott St., and the Anna E. Waden Branch, 5075 Third Street. The festival kicks off with a program featuring Wajumbe Children's Ensemble and three gospel choirs at the Western Addition Branch on Saturday, February 6 from 3 pm - 5 pm.

Events at the Bernal Branch include:

Gospel Choir, Wed., Feb. 10 at 7 pm

Wajumbe Children's Ensemble, performing the capoeira, a unique Afro-Brazilian art form developed by African slaves 400 years ago in colonial Brazil. Sat., Feb. 13, at 2 pm.

Theo Campbell, Storyteller, will regale children with African and Black American folktales. Tues., Feb. 16 at 10:30 am

Black History Film Festival, Tues., Feb., 23 at 10:30 am and 2 pm; Wed., Feb. 24 at 2 pm and 7 pm; Thurs., Feb 25, at 2 pm; Fri., Feb 26, at 2 m; Sat, Feb. 27 at 2 pm.

All events are free.



SO LONG, Trá-C! The BHCF's delightful young Administrative Assistant, Trá-C Phillips, has moved on to greener pastures. We'll miss you, Trace! Stop by and see us!

For '88

by Mello Rye

Oh Destiny
Just give me friendship
The love of my fellow king
This of all thy gifts I ask
A frined to hold my hand

A hand to hold in hope and trust
A heart that throbs and yearns
No burden can be too heavy to bear
While a spark of friendship burns.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! Come celebrate your birthday—or somebody else's—at the Bernal Senior Program. Every month, on the last Monday, is the Birthday Party, with live music by the Johnny Vallunga Band. Shown here, tearing up the dance floor, are Elsie and Ado Gallegos, and Alex and Clarissa Hill. come join us every month and MAKE NEW FRIENDS!

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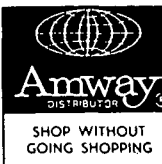
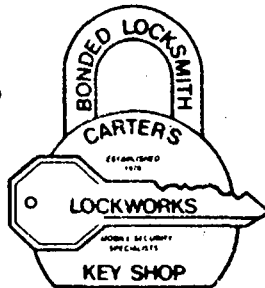
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Healthy Laughter Circles Bernal Hill

by Eugene Lopez

What does humor have to do with AIDS and other health problems? Lynn Grasberg, a music therapist and performer, and Lee Glickstein, humor writer and comedy coach, are developing "Healing Your Amuse System," a program for activating laughter in the treatment of illness.

Recently they have been working with AIDS patients, friends, and health practitioners at Quan Yin Acupuncture Center on Valencia Street, the University California Medical Center and the Metaphysical Alliance for Healing AIDS.

"Humor is about sudden shifts in perspective, where truth is revealed in a surprising way," says Lynn, founder of the San Francisco School of ReMirthing on Coleridge Street. "The presence of AIDS in our community has made us all face our mortality. We can use this realization to worry ourselves sicker or to find the edge of perspective that allows us to laugh. This is a very important part of taking charge of our own health."

"We do much of our program development during daily morning walks around Bernal mountain," says Lee. "We go three times around briskly, and by the third time we're usually laughing aerobically and getting wilder and wilder ideas. We take our silliness seriously. People think that developing a sense of humor is a trivial thing, but there's a fine art to allowing the world to be funny to you."

"In our work," says Lynn, "we just get right down to playing — finding the most effective way for each individual to delight in him or herself. We help people become conscious humor producers rather than passive humor consumers."

Believing that everyone has a sense of humor waiting to be rediscovered, they lead programs at their school. For further information, call them at 826-8248.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
RADIATION SURVIVORS
VETERANS, CIVILIANS, VICTIMS, FRIENDS
a nonprofit corporation

Radiation Survivors

by Fred Allingham

Are you among the 1,000,000 people who have been exposed to radiation while serving in the armed forces or as a civilian in research, development, or production? If so, the National Association of Radiation Survivors (NARS) is looking for you.

NARS is a national non-profit membership organization providing medical, legal, and peer group support to the estimated 250,000 veterans and 750,000 civilians who were exposed during the over 240 above ground and countless underground nuclear bomb detonations.

Years later, a significant number of these people have experienced illness or died. The exposure continues to haunt the families by creating genetic defects in their children. The corporations involved as well as the U.S. government continue to deny any connection between these health problems and nuclear testing and production.

NARS is organizing survivors to pressure the government and corporations to accept responsibility for the results of radiation exposure and to prevent future generations from having to experience the tragedy of death, illness and genetically affected children.

Contact NARS at 942 Market Street, Suite 710, or 397-2001, if you believe you have been exposed or if you are interested in working with them.



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Ask the Acupuncturist

By Sally McMullen, Certified Acupuncturist

In "kicking" any habit, a person usually experiences some physical discomfort or feeling of sickness. What are the withdrawal symptoms of a person "kicking" hard drugs?

They may include violent fits of tension, nausea, chills, headaches, vomiting, sensitivity to light, etc.

Can acupuncture help a person going through these withdrawal systems?

Acupuncture is extremely effective in treating tension, whatever form it takes. In the case of drug withdrawal the body can detoxify itself more rapidly and readjust to the environment once tension is reduced. Acupuncture and herbal teas may also be used to treat headaches, nausea, and other accompanying symptoms.

How many treatments would a patient need to get through withdrawal?

In the case of hard drugs, some people would require two or three treatments per day at first. In fact, the acupuncturist might need to be with the patient around the clock. But after the initial symptoms lessen, the frequency of treatment would decrease once to every two to three days, then every four to five days, and so on.

Has acupuncture been used to treat other forms of addiction?

Yes. Its use as a way to stop smoking is fairly widely known. However, it can also help with alcohol addiction, overeating (especially when due to nervous causes), and addiction to Western drugs such as valium. Often herbal teas are used in conjunction with the acupuncture treatments. The herbal teas are medicinal and aid in the detoxifying process as well as helping to rebalance the body in general.

What are the advantages to using acupuncture?

It's cheap, effective, and produces no side effects. However most people with heavy addictions need to have counseling in addition to acupuncture so that the treatments will have a lasting effect, and they can remain addiction free.

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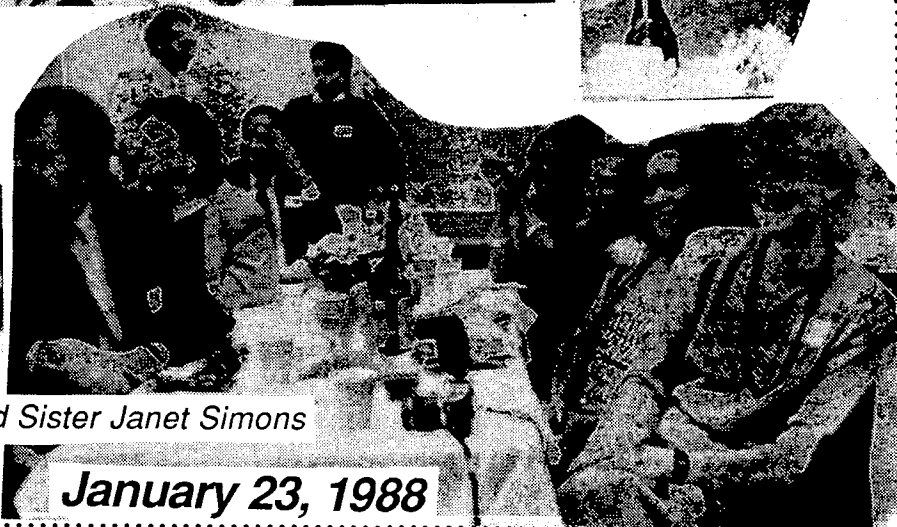
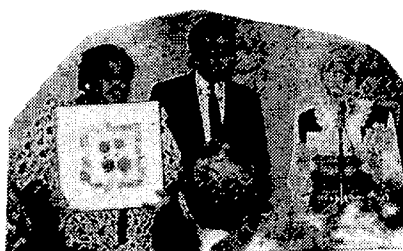
Oh, what a night!



OUR COMPLIMENTS TO THE CHEFS! Barbara Costuros, George Costuros, and Bruno Rocha.



Thank you, Steve Seligman, for your generous contribution to the Bernal Journal Youth Project!



Photos by Pattie Bartlett and Sister Janet Simons

January 23, 1988

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Charlene Martinez, shown here with fellow VISTA worker Bob Dutra in 1979, recently passed away. Daughter of Jeanne Hamer, Charlene was—like her mother—a longtime Bernal activist, co-founder of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, loving wife, mother and grandmother. We'll miss her spirit, her love, and her corny jokes!



Sheriff Hennessey Featured in State-Wide AIDS Training Video

San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey, Bernal Heights resident, is featured in an AIDS "facts and prevention" video which has been made available to law enforcement agencies throughout California. The informational video was produced by PORAC (Peace Officers Research Association of California), the largest peace officer representative organization in the state.

The video had its initial showing at PORAC's annual conference in November, in Anaheim, California. Sheriff Hennessey was the conference keynote speaker, addressing the critical and controversial issues surrounding AIDS, public safety personnel, and the community.

Seniors Swing at the Y

The Mission YMCA Senior Center will be holding a rummage sale on Saturday, February 27 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. A lunch counter and sweet shop will also be available so stop by!

The "Y" is pleased to announce its monthly tea dances which are held on the second Thursday of every month. Live music begins at 12:30 PM and refreshments are served.

For more information contact: Robin Fogel at 586-6900.

MISSION YMCA
4080 Mission Street
San Francisco 94112

Elementary School Openings

Immaculate Conception Elementary School, located on Folsom Street above Precita, is now accepting applications for Grades K—8. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the school office at 824-6860. You are also invited to attend **OPEN HOUSE, Sunday, February 7, from 10:30 until noon.**



OPEN YOUR HEART Catholic Charities is looking for experienced people who enjoy children to become the adoptive parents of school-aged children with emotional problems, because of early losses or abuse. For more information or an application, call Eileen McCarthy at Catholic Charities Adoption Department, 665-5100.

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Door Prizes



11

Jessica Murray's

Astro-rap

During Aquarius, it's okay to be a little crazy.

This is not a slur upon those born under the sign. In fact, I wanted my first baby to be an Aquarius, though the cosmos wouldn't have anything of it. (I got an Aries, the sign I most dreaded: my comeuppance for thinking I could plan such things. But that's another article.)

Aquarians belong to the future, not just because the coming New Age is associated with the sign, but because since time immemorial Aquarius has been the one sign of the zodiac dedicated to newness, technological innovation and radical change.

Ruled by the planet Uranus, people with Aquarius suns are often rebels. Impatient with the modus operandi of status quo, they are able to stand outside of a situation and see it from an angle the majority have not thought of. I had an Aquarius child visit recently who, when faced with a dramatic family portrait hanging on our wall, blithely avoided the standard questions about who the people were: he commented upon the interesting printing technique.

Though usually associated with science, Aquarius is often found in the charts of artists whose overriding characteristic is their striking originality. Art gives an Aquarius the license (s)he needs to be different. But whatever they do for a living, Aquarians do it with an unapologetic individualism. The self-aware ones stand out from the crowd with their genius, the unaware with their arrogance, but they are always somehow set apart - and therein lies their perspective. They make us think.

Aquarians are obstinate: this is a fixed sign, stubborn but often very persuasive. People with Mercury in Aquarius (the placement found in the chart of many an astrologer) are able to grasp some extremely abstract ideas whose only attraction is their intellectual integrity. This is the only sign which does not require that an idea have an emotional connotation, or submit to a pragmatic cost-analysis, or earn society's seal of approval before it is accepted into the understanding.

Like all air signs, Aquarius is social. From January 20 through February 19 this year, people will gravitate towards collective work. Intense one-to-one relationships are not highlighted so much as the more indirect kind of socializing that goes on when several people of like minds convene to share ideas. Aquarius makes us feel friendly but unsentimental.

Romantic rapport can be enhanced this month, however. Aquarius teaches us that the most loyal of lovers is a friend first and foremost.



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—Stan Sesser, Chronicle food critic, about Cambodia House

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—San Francisco Focus, about Cambodia House

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